REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's comments, and has incorporated the same into the instant Amendment. Claims 1 and 6 have been amended in the preamble to clarify that Applicants' invention is a securing assembly for use with outriggers, and to comply with 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Based on the clarification, Claim 6 is allowable, and Claim 5 contains allowable subject matter.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection of Claims 1 through 4, based upon 35 U.S.C. 102(b), as being anticipated by McCarthy. McCarthy discloses a mechanical coupling for tubular pipes, but does not disclose any devices for use with, or related to, outriggers. The '439 patent teaches a spring loaded, axial coupler with at least four major components; first, a special receiver 10 that incorporates a socket aperture 12 which contains a pin; second, an inner plug 18 which acts as a securing interface, and forms a notched end formed by two pairs of opposing internally facing walls, 20 and 22, the protuberant wall portions defined as having "forwardly located angularly disposed wall surfaces 24 and oppositely sloped rearwardly facing wall surfaces 26, the latter being shaped to constitute a nest in the walls 20 for the transverse locking pin 16", and forming angular extended slots 30 ; third, an axially shiftable collar or sleeve 34, which "closely slidably fits and slides on the inner plug part 18 which has the slots 30."; and fourth, a releasably coupled shank 36, which secures plug part 18.

Inner plug 18 also contains a critical helical coil spring, disposed with its bore, and biases the locking members 38,40.

It is import to note how the McCarthy device functions. With particular reference to Figures 2 and 3 (and corresponding alternative embodiments 5 and 6), because of the sloping disposition of the wall surfaces 26, a pull exerted on the retracted collar 34 will cause the inner plug 18 to shift sidewise and at the same time to shift or move axially from right to left, the locking pin 16 leaving the slot 30. Col. 3, lines 7 – 19. By the sloped wall and interfacing action of the components, " a double locking or detent action is effected in the coupling, one action consisting of the blocking of the slot 30", and "the other action resides in the bushing effect provided by the collar 34, which prevents sidewise movement of the inner coupling 18. By virtue of such double detent action an extremely reliable locking of the coupling parts is had by the simple simultaneous axial movement of the locking member 38,40 and the collar 34". Col. 3, lines 35 – 62.

The structure and function of the devices shown and described in McCarthy '439 are completely foreign to Applicant's invention. With reference to Figures 3 and 4, Applicants device incorporates a specially designed head 16, with a plurality of jaws 18, 20, and least one of which is movable. Note that jaw 20 moves up and down, generally perpendicularly to the axis of the head, and there is no axial movement. The upper jaw contains a cavity to receive the pin 48, mounted about the coupler flanges 46.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify the invention as set forth above. The elements require a coupling means and collar means which interact with one-another in a unique manner as disclosed in the specification and drawings. The "means for" clauses require a specific interpretation, and pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 112, paragraph 6, must be defined as that structure shown in applicants drawings, Figures 1 through 6, and as described in the specification. McCarthy ' 439 does not show, describe or include, in any fashion an outrigger securing device. McCarthy '439 also does not show, describe or include, in any fashion, applicants coupling means, collar means, or securing assembly as described above or as required by the claims of record.

McCarthy addresses a multi-component device which uses a double securing physical design, which blocks a slot by simple axial movement and physical geometry of sloping walls and a spring biased collar, which has no pin. McCarthy does not teach or suggest moveable jaws on a head member, which interface in a quick release manner with a separate cylindrical housing means, that incorporates an external pin within flanges.

It is believed that the Applicant has addressed all the matters raised by the Examiner, and Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims of record.

Should the Examiner have any remaining questions or comments, the undersigned would appreciate a telephone call to possibly expedite this case.

A separate Request For Extension of Time, and Amendment Transmittal Letter, have been filed concurrently herewith.

If there are any additional charges, including extension of time, please bill our Deposit Account No. 13-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

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